

# THE NEWS - RECORD



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## Drug Abuse Meeting Held Here Sunday

**By JIM STORY**  
Every seat in the courtroom was filled, including the jury boxes, and many standing at the public meeting Sunday afternoon of concerned citizens when solutions to the alleged drug abuse in the Marshall area were discussed. A previous meeting two weeks ago resulted in the second meeting here Sunday.

The Rev. Spencer LeGrand, pastor of the Marshall Baptist Church, presided at the meeting which consumed about two hours. Following the invocation by the Rev. Jimmy Buckner, Mr. LeGrand explained the purpose of the meeting, pointing out that it was apparent that a serious problem confronted parents, teachers, county officials, law enforcement officers and the public in general involving abuse of drugs by some students of Madison High School. Mr. LeGrand stated that anyone in the crowded courtroom could voice his or her opinion as to the solutions and ways of curbing this abuse. This included the opinions of high school students as well as both young and old persons present.

Rumors throughout the county were varied as to the extent of these abuses. Some of the general rumors or "grapevine gossip" put the percentage as high as 65 percent of the students were either aware or were involved in some way with drug abuse. Other statistics heard discounted such high percentages with some saying only "a very few students" participated.

The first person called on to inform the crowd as to his knowledge of the alleged abuses was Sheriff E. Y. Ponder.

Ponder said he welcomed cooperation from the public in informing him of abuses but urged everyone to stick solely to FACTS and not rumors. He explained that drugs were much harder to find than liquor. He cited the legal difficulties for arrests and the dangers of so-called "false accusations." "No doubt we have drugs such as other sections of the state but there are no more here than in neighboring areas," he said. He expressed a desire to curb this abuse in the school and elsewhere in the county. "We can lick this problem if everyone will help," he said.

James T. Ledford, chairman of the county board of commissioners, speaking in behalf of the Madison County Health Department, told the audience of a planning board which is in the offing by the commissioners to assist the Health Department in setting up adult education courses which would help parents and others recognize the various

drugs involved, including marijuana, etc.

Robert L. Edwards, county school superintendent, also spoke about the abuses and stated that school principals and teachers had been instructed to do everything possible within their jurisdiction to help alleviate the handling, sale and use of illegal drugs.

Don Anderson, a member of the county board of education, spoke of the various methods of dealing with the drug abuse problems and also appealed to the adults to carefully study which steps could and should be taken to curb the abuses. He asked the public to cooperate with the board of education in future plans which would be beneficial to both parents and students.

Following talks by these county officials, Mr. LeGrand then asked for comments, questions, opinions and discussions concerning the problem.

There was no hesitancy on the part of many persons, both adults and teenagers, to respond.

Mothers, fathers, relatives, new-comers to the county, doctors, ministers, students, some 25 persons spoke their minds. Some of the comments were most sensible, thought provoking and impressive while others were somewhat repetitious and sometimes confusing but well-meant. The general consensus, however, was the effort to help the students rather than to "prosecute" them in reaching a solution to stop these evils.

Varied opinions as to what direction or what methods should be most effective reached a "stalemate" after over an hour of talks. Some of the more recent residents of the county told of their experiences in larger cities where they had resided and how they (the cities) handled the situation. Many voiced the opinion that 90 percent of the responsibility rested in the training of children by parents and the examples set before the children in the home. Some stated that their children would not divulge intimate secrets concerning their behavior regarding drugs. One young person commented that students involved in the abuses would

come nearer telling fellow-students than telling older persons. She suggested a student-to-student, friend-to-friend method of finding out who the "pushers" were and are, especially for the students who wanted to "break the habit."

Several persons present vowed that "no actual names" of participants would be used and several suggested that "all names will remain confidential" if received by Sheriff Ponder. At least three persons commended Sheriff Ponder on his word and desire to keep such names confidential. Principals and teachers were also commended on their role in handling such intricate matters and information.

Although every effort will be made to deal with offenders with utmost care, it was pointed out that such offenders will be arrested for

handling illegal drugs either on or off the school premises.

One lady suggested the help of the SBI in aiding other law enforcement officers. Still others were apprehensive about this step, pointing out that many students might be exposed, arraigned and questioned whether guilty or innocent.

"It's a shame that the vast majority of upright, clean students must be subjected to the embarrassment caused by a small minority of students," one citizen said.

Michael Faires, director of safety and security at Mars Hill College, told of his experiences with this problem in many locations and cautioned the audience about making a wrong approach in attempting to curb these abuses. He promised to aid Sheriff Ponder, school officials and parents in attempting to solve this problem.

After more than two hours of questions, opinions and ideas, Dean Don Gehring, of Mars Hill College, offered a Resolution which was unanimously adopted, much to the delight of the overflow crowd in a hot courtroom. The Resolution adopted follows:

**RESOLUTION**  
The County Commissioners be directed to form a committee to investigate the nature and extent of drug abuse in Madison County and to make recommendations for attacking the problem of drug abuse. This committee to be composed as follows: county officials, law enforcement officials, parents who are not county officials, students, young people who are not students and educators; and that the committee report its initial findings to the people through The News-Record by December 1, 1975.

## Attention Madison County Youths

Following the meeting on drug abuse last Sunday afternoon a group of young people met with the Rev. Spencer LeGrand and some others to discuss what they and other young people can do to help themselves and their friends. It was decided to have a second meeting primarily for the youth this coming Sunday at 2 p.m. at the Marshall Baptist Church. All the youths in the county are invited.

"Young people, as you know, there is to be a committee appointed to study the drug situation. Mr. Ledford has agreed to wait for your suggestions before naming that committee," Mr. LeGrand stated.

Mr. Jack Ramsey, Mrs. Brenda Joyner and Mrs. Kathy Wheeler will be in charge of the meeting.



PICTURED ABOVE are the present members of the Madison County Board of Social Services. Left to right are Mrs. Beulah Gentry of Marshall, Mrs. Harriet Bucy of Mars Hill, Mrs. Verna Brigman of Walnut, Mrs. Virginia Anderson of Hot Springs, Chairman; and Ed Niles of Marshall.

## French Broad EMC To Be Closed On Saturdays

Effective November 1, 1975, the Marshall Office of French Broad Electric Membership Corporation in Marshall, N.C., will be closed on Saturdays. Members will be able to pay their electric bills from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday at any office of French

Broad EMC either at Marshall, Burnsville, or Bakersville, N.C. Wachovia Bank & Trust Co. at Mars Hill, N.C. is an authorized collection agent

for French Broad EMC. Payment can also be made by mail. French Broad EMC urges anyone paying by mail to do so by check or money order, it is inadvisable to send cash through the mail.

Routine connects and disconnects and other service work will not be performed on Saturdays. Only emergency work will be performed. A serviceman will be on stand-by to take care of emergency work.

Your cooperation in this change in operation is sincerely requested.

## Mars Hill Fire Dept. Bids To Be Opened Friday

The Mars Hill town officials will accept bids on the new fire department building until 3 p.m., Friday, October 31, 1975 and at that time will open all bids received.

The total cost of this much needed project is expected to be about \$90,000 and construction will start as soon as

the bids are formally accepted and approved by the town board and other agencies involved.

This project was passed by the citizens by a vote of 195 for and only 7 against. The town council and fire department were very pleased with this vote of confidence.



"PRODUCTIVITY LEVELS of over 110 percent have been logged by 31 employees at the Mars Hill, N.C., plant of the Micro Switch division. The highest level is presently held by Mariene Tomberlin, with a whopping 152 percent (she is not included in this picture). Others with productivity levels exceeding 115 percent are, from left, Joyce Smith, Kathleen Canine, Hazel Bradley, Chris Sprinkle, Shirley Ogle, Bonnie Gonnell, Helen Reeves, Edna Cordell, Zula Wilson, Martha Parker, Faye Clark, Amy Ballard,

Katherine Ramsey and Kathleen Phillips. Also performing at more than 110 percent are Juanita Thomas, Dorothea Thorpe, Debra Rice, Debra West, Jacqueline Webb, Sally Buckner, Ivadell Hall, Eloise Capps, Virginia Peek, Paris Hill, Nannette Hall, Faye Ray, Bobbie Clark, Marie Ball, Irene Swanson and Rita Arrington. The Mars Hill plant manufactures Micro Switch's basic line of snap action switches. The plant has been part of Honeywell for 24 years."



PICTURED ABOVE ARE FOUR SPEAKERS AT THE Keep North Carolina Beautiful meeting held at Grove Park Inn, Asheville, Monday. At left is Mrs. Juanita Adcock, president of Big Laurel Community Club in Madison County; Morris McGough, executive vice-president WNC Development Association and director of KNCB, Inc.; Robert S.

Hopson, director public works, Charlotte; and Mrs. Dan K. Moore, executive director KNCB, Inc., and wife of former Governor Moore. Other speakers from Madison County included Mrs. Ruth Gregory, Wiley DuVall, Dr. Evelyn Underwood, Dr. Grover Angel and Edward A. Morton. (Picture courtesy Asheville Citizen-Times)

## Madison County Prominent At K.N.C.B. Meeting

The directors of Keep North Carolina Beautiful Inc. met at the Grove Park Inn Monday and heard reports on many of the beautification projects now under way in Western North Carolina. Approximately 50 persons attended.

Monday morning's session featured a panel discussion titled "How We Are Cleaning Up Madison County." Taking part in the discussion were Mrs. Ruth Gregory, beautification coordinator, moderator; Wiley Duval, agricultural extension agent;

Dr. Evelyn Underwood, chairman of Model Madison; Mrs. Juanita Adcock, president of the Big Laurel Community Club; Dr. Grover Angel, president of the Greater Ivy Community Association; and Edward A. Morton, acting health director.

The panel told the story of Madison County's massive cleanup and beautification project, undertaken in connection with the nation's Bicentennial.

William Ives, chairman of the Transylvania County

Board of Commissioners reported on the progress of a four-county effort at cleaning up the French Broad River. He said seven miles of the river in Transylvania County have been cleaned up so far, with 117 miles as the goal.

The program is being carried on in cooperation with

the Tennessee Valley Authority, which is supplying the heavy-duty equipment used in the removal of cars and other junk from the river. The counties involved in the cleanup are Transylvania, Henderson, Buncombe and Madison.

## Forks of Ivy Working Together To Promote Neighborhoods

Neighborhoods in the Forks of Ivy Area are meeting and working together in preparing to celebrate the Bicentennial of the American Revolution. Six of the ten neighborhoods in the Fork Area are involved: Ivy River, Long Ridge, Fork of Little Ivy, Ivy Hill, Big Ivy and Forks of Ivy.

A Study Committee is actively working on plans for involving all ten neighborhoods of the Forks of Ivy Area. This Area includes neighborhoods in both Madison and Buncombe Counties; thus, the Forks of Ivy Area is a Bi-County effort in celebrating the Bicentennial. Also, this Area is proud that it is a biracial effort in celebration, as colored residents of the Long Ridge Neighborhood are enthusiastically involved in all phases of the organization and its work. Further, the Area includes residents of four church fields: Mount Olive Baptist, Ivy Hill Baptist, Smith Freewill Baptist, and Forks of Ivy Baptist. The Youth in the Area are students at Mars Hill and Flat Creek Elementary schools, or at North Buncombe and Madison High Schools in Madison and Buncombe Counties.

Therefore, the Forks of Ivy Area is uniquely American as it becomes a Community of Neighborhoods working together in celebration of the American Bicentennial! Monthly community meetings are being held in the Shoe Town building at the Forks of Ivy. At its monthly meeting in October, residents of this Area met for fellowship, for an informative program, and for planning future projects.

A musical sing-along was an enjoyable part of this month's meeting. A group of the main students, the

spontaneous singing that involved old and young alike. Dr. Grover Angel, President of the Greater Ivy Association, shared information with the group about Greater Ivy's efforts in winning first place in the western North Carolina Beautification Contest, developing a recreation program, road side clean-up, and establishing a Community Center. Dr. Angel encouraged those present to realize that "Nothing Succeeds like Success!" The program was followed by a business session and refreshments.

The Forks of Ivy Area residents have worked together for accomplishing the following projects: road side clean-up, including removal of junked cars; a Community Fellowship Dinner in the Ivy Hill Fellowship Hall; Organized an active Youth Council, as first in Madison County; published a community newsletter, "Echoes of Ivy"; held Quilting Bees and Bake-Sales; and has begun Mass Beautification and Community Sign.

The present community leadership includes: Johnny Jarvis, president; Ned Smith, vice president; Mrs. Roger Norton, secretary; Mrs. A.E. Honeycutt, treasurer; Mrs. Robert Neville, community representative with the Greater Mars Hill Area; and Mrs. Thomas Brumby, community representative with the Madison County Bicentennial Commission.

The leadership is recruiting a "neighborhood response" team to help residents in their own neighborhoods. A "neighborhood response" team is a group of people who meet regularly to discuss and plan projects for their own neighborhoods. The

## Criminal Court To Start Here Monday

A special term of superior court for the trial of criminal cases will start here Monday morning with Judge James M. Bailey, Jr., presiding. Clyde M. Roberts, District Attorney, James T. Rusher, Assistant District Attorney; and R. Harold Bailey, Administrative Assistant, will represent the State.

Listed among the trials scheduled are two murder cases, State vs. Mason King; and State vs. Pritchard Dockery.

A list of jurors for the one week term follows: David Cutshall, Mae Rathbone Messer, Vernon J. Ponder, Joy P. Gayer, Flint J. Morgan, Sallie Thomas, Jacob Griffey, Mrs. Paul Frisby, Joe Fowler, Oree Frisbee, Don Anderson, Jimmy Arnold Goforth, Loretta English, Geneva W. James, Eula Mae Case, Alfred Chandler, Carson Hensley, Mack C. Faulkner, Larry Thomas Flynn, John Harley Church, Boyce Chester Gonnell, Hoye Coates, Beulah Marler Holder, Lester Homer Boone, Luther Chandler, Doris Phillips Bentley, Cleota Davis Hutchins, Roy T. Bradley, Villa Loretta George, Jessie Davis Ball, Ann Wheeler Fox, Louella Shook Gonnell, Annie Bell Fleming, Edna Michaelis Brown, Wade Freeman, Gracie Beane, Lela Jane Justice, William Leonard Coffey, Bojan Pangle Frisbee, Nancy Gentry Allen, Debra P. Coe, Mary Cecil Jarvis, Kathryn Faye Boone, Janice Lee Caldwell, Shirley Geraldine Honeycutt, Rose F. Franklin, Cline Honeycutt, James Robert Ferrall, Corla Hensley, Sherry Ann Radcliff Boyd, David Lee Garrett, Loretta Faye Barnett, Ails

Harmon Capps, Tom I. Brigman, Nola Treadway Flynn, Albert Hyleman, Ethel Brooks, John Ernest Clark, Bonada Bullman, Alice Capps, Glenn Davis, Larry Charles Huntsinger, Pauline Elezene Briggs, Oma Rice Buckner, Owen Wallace Fish, Emma Lou Bullman, Sally Kate Franklin, Kathy Ray Johnson, John Reeves Fisher, Bulow Smith Carver, Cynthia Diana

Davis, Sandra Allen Gahagan, Joseph Garfield Justice, Kenneth Elmer Erickson, Lawson Douglas Fisher, Emery William Davis, Clyde Lyndall English, Neta Buckner, Paula Metcalf Ammons, Claude Bowers, Fred Franklin Henderson, Billy Ellison, Phil Arrington, Maynard Cody, Robert Allen, Jr.

## Halloween Carnival On Island Thursday

The annual Halloween Carnival will be held at the Marshall Elementary school on the Island tonight (Thursday) beginning at 7:30 o'clock. Mountain music, food, cake walks, bingo, fish pond, costume parade and other

entertainment will be enjoyed. Highlight of the event will be the crowning of the Kings and Queens in Primary, Elementary and Junior High grades. The crowning events will start at 9 p.m. The public is invited.

## School Food Service Meeting

The Madison County Chapter of School Food Services met Tuesday evening at 4 o'clock in the Madison High School Cafeteria.

Mr. Harry Smith, Representative from Asheville Showcase, presented an interesting session on equipment and its uses.

Treasurer, announced that \$665.58 was cleared from the ham dinner. She said a check in this amount would be presented to Mr. J.C. Wallin, Jr., Principal of Madison High School, for the fund.

Mrs. Mayme Drake, President, and all the members wish to express their thanks to all who donated food and helped toward making the dinner a success.

**Don't Forget To VOTE On Tuesday November 4th**